

Amendments to the claims (this listing replaces all prior versions):

1. (currently amended) An audio system for a vehicle, said vehicle comprising a first passenger location and a second passenger location, said second passenger location situated behind said first passenger location, said audio system comprising:

a first left or right directional audio channel signal source;

a center audio channel signal source;

a left or right surround audio channel signal source;

a first electroacoustical transducer coupled to said first left or right directional audio signal source, said center channel signal source, and to said left or right surround audio channel source, the first electroacoustical transducer situated adjacent to a first side of the vehicle behind said first passenger location,
said first electroacoustical transducer constructed and arranged to radiate sound waves corresponding to audio signals from said first only (i) said left or right directional audio channel signal source, (ii) said center channel signal source, and corresponding to audio signals from (iii) said left or right surround audio channel signal source; and
a second electroacoustical transducer coupled to only said first left or right directional audio signal source, situated adjacent to the first side of the vehicle and forward of said first electroacoustical transducer,
said second electroacoustical transducer constructed and arranged to radiate sound waves corresponding to audio signals from only said first left or right directional audio channel signal source.
2. (currently amended) An audio system in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a first audio signal scaling device coupling said left or right directional audio channel source and said first electroacoustical transducer, and

a second audio signal scaling device coupling said left or right surround audio channel source and said first electroacoustical transducer; and

a third audio signal scaling device coupling said center audio channel source to said first electroacoustical transducer.

- 3-4. (canceled).
5. (currently amended) An audio system in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a third electroacoustical transducer, situated behind said second passenger location, coupled to said left or right surround channel source,
said third electroacoustical transducer constructed and arranged for radiating sound waves corresponding to audio signals from said left or right surround audio channel signal source.
6. (currently amended) In a vehicle comprising a first passenger location and a second passenger location, said first passenger location situated forward of said second passenger location, a method for operating an audio system having at least a center, left, right plurality of directional audio channel signals and a left surround, and right surround audio channel signal, the method comprising:
transmitting a first of said plurality of directional a combination of only the center, left or right and left surround or right surround audio channel signals and a surround audio channel signal to a first electroacoustical transducer situated adjacent to a first side of said vehicle and behind said first passenger location;
and transmitting only said first left or right directional audio channel signal to a second electroacoustical transducer situated adjacent to the first side of said vehicle and forward of said first electroacoustical transducer.
7. (canceled)
8. (currently amended) A method for operating an audio system in accordance with claim 6, further comprising scaling the amplitude of said first center, left or right, and left surround or right surround audio channel signals signal and of said surround audio channel signal.

9. (currently amended) A method for operating an audio system in accordance with claim 6, further comprising transmitting only said left surround or right surround audio channel to a third electroacoustical transducer situated behind said second passenger location.
10. (currently amended) An audio system for a vehicle, said vehicle comprising a first passenger location and a second passenger location, said second passenger location situated behind said first passenger location, said audio system comprising:

a center directional audio channel signal source;

a ~~first~~ left directional audio channel signal source;

a left surround audio channel signal source;

a first electroacoustical transducer coupled to a combination of only said first center directional audio channel signal source, said left directional audio channel signal source, and to said left surround audio channel source, the first electroacoustical transducer located adjacent to a first side of said vehicle and situated behind said first passenger location;

said first electroacoustical transducer constructed and arranged to radiate sound waves corresponding to audio signals from said combination of said center directional channel audio, left directional audio channel signal source, and left surround audio channel signal source;

a second electroacoustical transducer coupled to only said first left directional audio signal source, situated adjacent to said first side of the vehicle and forward of said first electroacoustical transducer,

said second electroacoustical transducer constructed and arranged to radiate sound waves corresponding to audio signals from only said first left directional audio channel signal source; and

a third electroacoustical transducer, situated behind in front of said first and second passenger location, coupled to said surround only center directional audio channel source,

said third electroacoustical transducer constructed and arranged to radiate sound waves corresponding to audio signals from only said surround center directional audio channel signal source.

11. (currently amended) In a vehicle comprising a first passenger location and a second passenger location, said first passenger location situated forward of said second passenger location, a method for operating an audio system having a left, right, center, left surround and right surround plurality of directional audio channel signals and a surround audio channel signal, the method comprising:

transmitting a combination of only the (i) center, (ii) left or right, and (iii) left surround or right surround first of said plurality of directional audio channel signals and a surround audio channel signal signals to a first electroacoustical transducer situated adjacent to a first side of the vehicle and behind said first passenger location;

and transmitting only the left or right said first directional audio channel signal to a second electroacoustical transducer situated adjacent to the first side of the vehicle and forward of said first electroacoustical transducer

transmitting only said left or right surround audio channel to a third electroacoustical transducer situated adjacent to a second side of the vehicle and behind said second passenger location.

12. (new) The method of claim 11 wherein the second side of the vehicle is generally perpendicular to the first side of the vehicle.